

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 092226Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 9, 1975:

MR. FUNSETH: I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE: WE HAVE
INVITED PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE
TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY
KISSINGER AS PART OF THE CONSULTATIONS WE ARE PRESENTLY
HOLDING WITH GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION AND HAS INDICATED
THAT PRESIDENT ASAD'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THESE TALKS WILL
BE MR. ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
WHO WILL COME TO WASHINGTON ON JUNE 20.

Q. JUNE 20?

A. RIGHT.

Q. WHAT IS HIS TITLE, PLEASE?

A. HE IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SYRIA.

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Q. IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT, WAS THERE AN
EFFORT EVER MADE TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN ASAD AND
PRESIDENT FORD?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. IF WE CAN TURN BACK TO THE ASAD STORY, IS THIS GOING
TO BE THE LAST OF THE MEETINGS INVOLVING THE REASSESSMENT?
A SENIOR OFFICIAL ONCE USED THE WORD "OTHERS." WILL THERE
BE OTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH ARAB LEADERS?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO OTHER VISITS ARE PRESENTLY
PLANNED.

Q. IS THIS JUST A ONE-DAY AFFAIR? YOU SAID JUNE 20.

A. I ASSUME THAT HE MAY BE ARRIVING THE DAY BEFORE. BUT HE WILL BE COMING TO WASHINGTON CERTAINLY ON JUNE 20 FOR TALKS. HIS SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET, AND THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

Q. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME THAT THEY WILL HAVE REALLY NOTHING TO SAY ON WHAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE UNTIL AFTER THE PRESIDENT HAD CONFERRED WITH THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS. WILL THIS MEAN THERE WILL BE A FURTHER DELAY UNTIL AFTER HE HAS CONFERRED WITH THE SYRIAN?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE IS REALLY A QUESTION OF A DELAY. WE HAVE ALWAYS STATED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD BE PART OF THE POLICY REVIEW PROCESS.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE REASSESSMENT WON'T BE COMPLETED UNTIL AFTER THIS MEETING, AT LEAST, IS THAT RIGHT?

A. CERTAINLY OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILL HAVE SOME REFLECTION IN THAT ASSESSMENT. BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY SPECIFIC DATE WHEN THAT IS GOING TO BE COMPLETED.
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Q. I AM JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHY WE ARE INVITING THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO THIS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, WHEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN LEADERS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ACTUALLY CONFERRED WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THIS ISSUE. WHY ISN'T THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA COMING?

A. I THINK YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA. WE ASKED HIM TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, AND HE DESIGNATED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING TALKS WITH HIM.

Q. WELL, HE WASN'T ACTUALLY INVITED HIMSELF IS WHAT I AM GETTING AT. THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA WAS NOT INVITED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED --

A. WE INVITED HIM TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT ISSUE THIS INVITATION OR DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK AS TO JUST WHAT THE METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WAS, OR AT WHAT LEVEL.

Q. BACK ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS THE ADMINISTRATION ENCOURAGED BY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE ISRAELI CABINET YESTERDAY OR DISAPPOINTED THAT IT WAS NOT MORE FORTH-COMING?

A. I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS OF CABINET MEETINGS. AS FAR AS THE TALKS THIS WEEK, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AND APPROACHING THE TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE,--

Q. DO YOU HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR HIS VISIT?

A. -- AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS APPROACHING THESE MEETINGS WITH THE SAME ATTITUDE.

I DO NOT HAVE A DETAILED SCHEDULE AS YET. THERE WILL BE MEETINGS AND TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY
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ON THE 11TH AND 12TH.

Q. WOULD YOU EXPECT THESE MEETINGS TO PRODUCE ANY KIND OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. THESE KINDS OF MEETINGS USUALLY DO PRODUCE SOME KIND OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT. WHAT WILL BE THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT ANNOUNCEMENT I AM NOT ABLE TO PREDICT UNTIL AFTER THEY HAVE HAD THEIR MEETINGS.

Q. MORE OR LESS WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO HAVE A SCHEDULE OF THE MEETINGS?

A. LET ME CHECK ON THAT. IT WILL PROBABLY COME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, IN ANY CASE.

Q. WHAT IS ON THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE THIS WEEK THAT YOU KNOW OF, APART FROM THE MEETINGS WITH MR. RABIN?

A. I THINK THAT PRETTY MUCH DOMINATES THE WEEK.

Q. IS HE UP ON THE HILL?

A. I BELIEVE TOMORROW MORNING HE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

Q. IN A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOME DAYS AGO, WHICH JUST HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION, THERE IS A LADY FROM THE ISLAMIC MUSEUM IN JERUSALEM VISITING IN THE UNITED STATES, ALONG WITH SOME OTHERS; AND JERUSALEM IS LISTED AS A COUNTRY IN THIS PRESS STATEMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW TWO THINGS. ONE, IS JERUSALEM A COUNTRY? TWO,

ON WHAT KIND OF PASSPORT IS SHE TRAVELLING? AND HOW WAS
SEH SELECTED? AND DID THE ISRAELI OFFICIALS KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS?

A. ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PRESS RELEASE THEY USUALLY
HAVE A NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. WHO IS LISTED THERE?

Q. THERE IS A MAN BY THE NAME OF GEORGE W. PORTER. WELL,
HE SHOULD KNOW WHETHER JERUSALEM IS A COUNTRY OR NOT,
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SHOULDN'T HE?

A. I MUST CONFESS I DID NOT READ THAT. WE WILL CALL
MR. PORTER AND TRY TO CLARIFY IT. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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